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New York, 8-17 August 2017
Item 5 of the provisional agenda*
Reports by Governments on the situation in their countries and on the progress made in the standardization of geographical names since the Tenth Conference (for distribution only)

National standardization of place names in Kazakhstan

Summary**

The national standardization of place names, as well as their registration, is carried out in accordance with article 4 (2) (13) of the Law of Kazakhstan on geodesy and cartography, adopted on 3 July 2002, and the requirements of the State programme on the functioning and development of languages for 2001-2010 and 2011-2020.

Since 2011, work has been carried out to update and complete the catalogue of maps at the scale of 1:25,000, which will be completed in 2017. By the end of 2017, the updated and completed gazetteers of 14 regions of Kazakhstan will be released. A total of approximately 170,000 toponyms will be in the database of the catalogue of topographic maps at the scale of 1:25,000. From 2018, monitoring of the database of the State catalogue of place names of Kazakhstan will be carried out in order to respond promptly to changes and maintain the information in the catalogue in accordance with the present realities.

In the context of ensuring the regular exchange of information about place name changes, the digital newsletter on place name changes of the member States of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) is updated annually. The newsletter is published in accordance with the decision of the fourth session of the Inter-State Council for Geodesy, Cartography, Cadastre and Earth Remote Sensing of the member States of CIS of 1993.

* E/CONF.105/1.

** The full report was prepared by Evgeniya Gesko, a department head handling thematic cartography and the State catalogue of place names. The report is available from http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNGEGN/ungegnConf11.html, in the languages of submission only, as document E/CONF.105/7/CRP.7.

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The President of Kazakhstan, Nursultan Nazarbayev, has tasked the Government with preparing for the transition from the Kazakh to the Latin alphabet. The unified standard for the new Kazakh alphabet and script in Latin should be developed by the end of 2017, after consultations with scientists and public representatives. The transition to the Latin alphabet is expected to be completed by 2025.

In 2017, experts of the Eastern Europe, Northern and Central Asia Division of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names from Kazakhstan participated in the twenty-ninth session of the Group of Experts in Bangkok. The experts from Kazakhstan participated in all meetings of the working group on geographical names of the Inter-State Council for Geodesy, Cartography, Cadastre and Earth Remote Sensing of the member States of CIS. The working group is tasked with ensuring the regular exchange of information about place name changes. The outcome of the cooperation was the joint preparation and annual updating of the digital newsletter on place name changes of the member States of CIS.